

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-6, and 9-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 are amended. Claims 15-18 are added as new. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the following remarks.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In sections 4-5 on pages 2-9, the Office Action maintains the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 9, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 entered in the Non-Final Office Action dated June 26, 2008. According to this rejection, claims 1, 4, 6, 9, and 11-14 are allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0018665 to Dovin et al. (hereinafter "Dovin"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 as amended recites,

"when the number of network objects within the hierarchy between the root object and the displayed network object, inclusive, exceeds a maximum number of buttons displayable on the terminal, displaying a number of buttons less than the number of network objects within the hierarchy between the root object and the displayed network object, inclusive" (emphasis added).

Independent claims 6, 11, and 12 contain similar recitations. Support for this subject matter can be found in, for example, paragraph [0020].

This subject matter provides significant advantages to network operators employing a network management interface. Telecommunication networks can

contain many layers with large numbers of network elements, making it difficult to navigate and keep track of what location in the network is currently displayed. The subject matter quoted above relates to clipping intermediate buttons that represent these network elements when there are too many intermediate buttons to be displayed on the breadcrumb bar.

On pages 4-5, the Office Action alleges that Dovin discloses this subject matter in paragraphs [0005] and [0030]. The Office Action applies an analogous line of reasoning to claims 6, 11, and 12.

The cited language of paragraph [0005] of Dovin simply discloses the order of the links displayed. The only mention made in paragraph [0005] of the number of links displayed comes in the statement “. . . a user is presented with all of the pages that the user has visited . . .” (emphasis added). No mention is made in Paragraph [0005] of determining how many links might be displayed on the terminal nor to any attempt to reduce the number of links. Further, the cited lines of paragraph [0030] only disclose the maintenance of “. . . all breadcrumbs regardless of whether a breadcrumb already appears . . .” (emphasis added). Again, the cited lines do not disclose any upper limit to the number of links displayed. The cited paragraphs clearly state that **all** breadcrumbs are displayed.

While some breadcrumb removal functionality is described, it is only described in connection with removing duplicate links. Paragraph [0030] states

“The second argument, ‘remove’, allows removing a breadcrumb and all subsequent breadcrumbs from the breadcrumb navigation trail if a breadcrumb associated with the current page **already appears** in the trail.” (emphasis added). Again, no consideration whatsoever is given to the maximum number of links that can be displayed on the terminal.

Furthermore, because all breadcrumbs being removed correspond either to a duplicate entry for the current page or to objects below the current page in the hierarchy, these breadcrumbs are not counted when determining the number of objects within the hierarchy between the root object and the displayed object, inclusive. Therefore, their removal will not bring the number of displayed links **less than** the aforementioned number of objects in the hierarchy. Thus, Dovin does not contemplate reducing the number of links displayed when the total number of links exceeds the maximum number displayable nor does Dovin contemplate reducing the number of links to less than the total number of objects between the root and current object, inclusive.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Dovin does not disclose, teach, or suggest

“when the number of network objects within the hierarchy between the root object and the displayed network object, inclusive, exceeds a maximum number of buttons displayable on the terminal, displaying a number of buttons less than the number of network objects within the hierarchy between the root object and the displayed network object, inclusive,”

as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 6, 11, and 12.

Claim 4 depends from allowable claim 1, claim 9 depends from allowable claim 6, and claims 13 and 14 depend from allowable claim 12. Accordingly, claims 4, 9, 13, and 14 are also allowable over Dovin at least by virtue of their respective dependencies. Applicant notes that claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 were cancelled in a previous Amendment.

For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In sections 6 and 7 on pages 9-12, the Office Action rejects claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dovin in view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0132018 to Milic-Frayling et al. (hereinafter "Milic-Frayling"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 10 are allowable based at least on their respective dependencies from claims 1 and 6 for the reasons stated above in connection with claim 1. Milic-Frayling fails to overcome the deficiencies in Dovin discussed above.

For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS

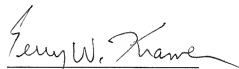
Claims 15-18 are added by way of the present amendment. The subject matter recited in these claims finds support in, for example, paragraph [0020] of the specification. Claim 15 depends from allowable claim 1; claim 16 depends from allowable claim 6; claim 17 depends from allowable claim 11; and claim 18 depends from allowable claim 12. Claims 15-18 are therefore allowable based at least upon their respective dependencies.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Kramer", written over a horizontal line.

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